THE VOCALISM

of the

ROMANIC LANGUAGES

Master of Arts.

Thesis by

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THE VOCALISM OF THE ROMANIC LANGUAGES.

A language by itself is like a twig broken from the great trunk of languages. To separate it from the trunk without keeping in view its connection with the rest, its origin, its progress, its vicissitudes and so many other causes which have influenced its destiny; to study apart its particular phenomena would deprive us of the full view and better understanding which we get by studying the whole tree.

Words picture our thoughts and are produced by the mechanism of our vocal instrument. We cannot conceive an idea without feeling at the same time a necessity to communicate the same. This desire in man has created the necessity of living together with his fellow men. But for this desire we would still be living scattered and wandering all over the surface of the globe, or the human race might even have been extinct by this time.

But it is not enough to make sounds, animals too can do that. The important part the human voice plays in life is to produce words which enable man to make known his physical and moral wants. In former times people believed that human speech was handed over by the Creator to Adam already made. St. Augustin in his work "De Civitate Dei" says that the Hebrew language with its letters was given to Adam and by him handed to the succeeding patriarchs, thus making the Hebrew the primitive language. It is known, however,

that there are older languages in the world than the Hebrew. However that may be, it is enough for us to know that the Creator has endowed man with intelligence that enabled him to work out a system of his own. As to who was the first to use spoken words and in what idiom, will probably never be known. It is probable that man used certain gestures to make his wants known; later he accompanied his gestures by sounds and words. At any rate, we cannot go far from the truth in thinking that speech is a product of perfection in our nature, either physical or moral. There are savage tribes in the wilds of Africa and in other parts of the world who have their own languages by which they are perfectly able to make known their wants. Some of these savage and barbarian languages are very marvelous in their construction.

If we cannot determine as to who was the first that originated the spoken word, we have at least the satisfaction to know to whom we owe the invention of graphic signs to perpetuate our thoughts. His name was Tauth who was venerated as a god in Egypt. Tauth then was the inventor of the alphabet, which is the principle of science and memory. But, as it is well known, the Egyptians were not a very communicative people. This invention might never have come down to us had not Cadmus, a Phoenician, imported the alphabet into Greece. The Greeks taught it to the Romans and by these it was spread all over the civilized world. Pliny, a contemporary of Tacitus, makes the following record of this fact in his Natural History, Book VIII, page 42:

"Litteras semper arbitror Assyriis fuisse, sed alii apud Aegyptos a Mercurio, ut Gellius, alii apud Syros repertas volunt, utique in Graeciam attulisse e Phoenice Cadmum sedecim numero, quibus Troiano bello Palamedem adiecisse quattuor hac figura ZΨΦX totidem post eum Simonidem melicum ΥΞΩΘ, quarum omnium vis in nostris recognoscitur. Aristoteles decem et octo priscas fuisse et duas ab Epicharmo additas ΨZ quam a Palamede mavolt".

The famous French grammarian, Lancelot, in his method known under the name of Port-Royal, specified the sixteen letters, which according to the above quotation were imported to Greece by the Phoenician Cadmus, as follows:

a, b, c, d, e, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u.

These letters were sufficient to produce all the sounds of a language, the remaining ten are an invention of a later period and seem to be of greater utility than necessity. Most languages of the Indo-European family use twenty-six letters of which five are vowels and the rest consonants.

The subject of our Dissertation is "<u>The Comparative Study of the Vocalism of the Romanic Languages</u>", but before going into the discussion of our subject proper, we must first consider: the origin and formation of the Romanic Languages.

When the Roman Empire had fallen it was to be expected that from the general movement of all nations, caused by the barbarian invasion, a new state of things would arise. Rome had not only con-

quered the world by her arms, but kept it under the yoke by the empire of her laws and her language. The latter was a means of domination no less powerful than all the other means she employed. The Roman language imposed itself upon the conquered and became gradually the language of all countries under Roman dominion. Most of the old idioms disappeared after a time to make place for the Latin, which was transformed into a sort of universal language common to a number of peoples very different in their origin and customs.

It is a remarkable fact that the Latin language took the deepest root with those nations that were accessible to civilization. These were mostly of celtic origin and the harder they fought to defend their rights against Roman aggression the easier they acquired the Latin afterwards. Such were the Gauls, the Spanish and the Lusitanians (Portuguese). Rome, being the capital of Italy, the whole country had to speak the language of the conqueror and so she was the first to submit and assimilate. These people had lived for centuries before under the yoke of Rome. Therefore we may say that aside from a few peoples, all the nations included in the vastly extended Roman empire had adopted, nolens volens, the language of the conqueror. And the Roman traditions became so rooted in all parts of the empire that even after its fall the people kept the beautiful Latin language as a precious monument of civilization, and as a natural defense against the invading barbarians. But this state of things could hardly remove all the causes of dissolution which had destroyed the old social order.

One of the first and most potent causes was the mixture of people. Take, for instance, France, and you will have an idea of similar phenomena that were produced all over Europe. As is well known the Gauls are of Celtic extraction, but at a very early period the Greek element took hold of Marseille, whence the influence of the Greek language, commerce and civilization was spread all over Gaul. Traces of the Greek character and language stick to this day to the French people.

The conquest of Gaul was of great importance to the Romans. Much as she resisted the aggression of the greatest general of antiquity, yet after she was conquered she showed great docility, for after a few years she became the most Roman province of the whole Empire. The Latin destroyed so completely her old national idiom that today we are hardly able to discover a few remnants of the Celtic language. The Roman element predominates in the French language, but there is still left a trace of the Germanic element in it; for it is hardly imaginable that the German tribes that had invaded Gaul could have lived there so long without leaving a trace of their language, however slight this trace may be.

It was only in the Ninth Century that the various elements which for ages had gathered in Gaul commenced to show symptoms of fusion. In 842 the oath of Strasburg contained the first words that indicated the new idiom which under the title of the French Language was to replace the Latin in the near future. It took, however, no

less than four centuries, not only to unite all the idioms of Gaul into one, but that all the various tribes should be united into the body of one nation. The result of this noble work was the birth of twins: the French language and nationality.

While the language and dominion of the Germanic race were driven back over the Rhine where they properly belonged, the newly formed "Lingua Romana" was also divided into two very distinct dialects, known under the names of "langue d'oc" and "langue Provençale". The south of France which lead an existence by itself had to have an idiom of its own. This Provençal language enjoyed a perfect independence and reached a high grade of civilization, it acquired such a perfection that none other could be compared with it, until the religious war of the Albigeois broke out, which event gave Philippe-Augustus an opportunity to interfere. These provinces being too weak to resist the ascendency of the north and so lost their independence and with it the use of their language which the Troubadours have made famous for several centuries. The idiom of the north the "langue d'oil" had triumphed over the idiom of the south. Then the genius of the French nation was greatly stimulated by the expeditions of the Crusades. The knights went abroad in the double capacity of warriors and pilgrims and were the heroes of the marvelous epic songs in which their chivalrous deeds were related, the "Chansons de Gestes". France found her Iliade in the "Chanson de Roland". The Twelfth Century was remarkable, not only for the progress of the French language, but in many other ways of civilization. The

wars with England and the wars with Italy soon followed by the religious wars mark the last stages of this long and painful apprenticeship which elevates nations as well as men to the highest destinies. The age of Louis XIV became the climax when the greatest geniuses with their master pieces appeared.

Italy had the same experience. The Italian language would never have been one of the first languages formed in Europe, but for the great struggle; they endeavored to retain and keep intact all that could remind them of their old grandeur. They maintained the Latin language for a long time in its purity. But when the great danger to lose their nationality by the invasion of the German emperors loomed over their heads, their love for liberty and independence did wonders. When the struggle of the Guelfes and Gibelius began, the Latin language had already undergone some great changes and the first signs of the Italian language appeared. In this struggle the great Italian, Dante, was the proud standard bearer; he makes it known in his immortal poem "La Divina Comedia". The Italian language came out victorious in its struggle and affirms itself in the manly Florentine who was the greatest poet and citizen Italy ever had.

We notice the same phenomenon in Spain, only under another form. But with the violent struggles the fruit of intelligence ripens, just as fire and water are necessary to harden steel. Only after eight centuries of wars in which that noble country fought for her religion, her liberty and her independence, a period during

which the Spanish language took splendid and lasting form in the writings of a Lope de Vega, a Calderon and a Cervantes. Unfortunately the inquisition came and darkened for centuries the blossoms of Castilian genius. Portugal and Spain had for several centuries about the same destiny, so it was natural that the language of these two nations should attain that state of perfection as represented by Comoens and Cervantes.

As to the Romanian language, there is little to be said, as that nation is yet very little known. The language is spoken in some of the small principalities near the mouth of the Danube. We believe that Dietz was the first to count it among the group of Romanic languages which are usually quoted in a comparative study. The phonetic of the Roumanian language varies more from that of the Latin than any other of the group, except the French language. This latter language underwent the most changes phonetically, therefore we will give it the most attention.

In speaking about the phonetic system of a language we must first give a brief description of that marvelous instrument of the voice which every human being carries within himself. Considering the human voice, the organ is the instrument which it resembles most. The lungs render the service of the bellows, the throat and nostrils that of the organ pipes, the mouth is the organ box and the walls of the mouth the organ keys. Every organ of speech located in the mouth or in the chest has its function in producing a sound. To give a full description of the wonderful mechanism of the voice would

take an expert and an artist, so I will stop here and proceed in the exposition of the Vocalism of the Romando languages.

Vocalism is the system which deals with the vowels of a language. Vowels are the sounds which are produced by the vocal cords, while consonants can only be uttered with the help of the vowels. Vowels are absolutely necessary to form an intelligible word. But if vowels are the life, the acdent might be called the soul of a word. We will now try to show what changes occurred in the vowels of the Latin language in its transformation into the Romanic languages:

In uttering a sound we must consider three things:

1 - The pitch or elevation of the tone which depends on the number of vibrations produced.

2 - The power or degree of intensity which depends on the length of time it takes to produce a sound.

3 - The sonorous character of the sound produced, as for instance, the different instruments played in a music band, where each instrument can be recognized by the sound proper to it.

In a word of several syllables, the one upon which more stress is put than upon the others, is called tonic or accented. The other syllables are unaccented or atonic (ἄτονος). In Latin every word had an accented syllable which was, so to speak, the soul of the word. In some languages, like the Italian or German, for instance, the mere change of the accent changes the meaning of the word, or makes it altogether incomprehensible. In the Latin the ac-

cent could be only in two places: on the penult or on the antepenult, when the penult was short, for example, in románus the accent is on a; in dóminus the acdent is on o. The former was considered paroxyton, the latter a proparoxyton.

There was another accent in the Latin, not as strong as the first; it was called a secondary accent. Both these accents were maintained in the Romanic languages to which they gave a greater stability, while on the other hand they caused the falling off of the adjoining toneless syllables, like: mere = mer, moucheron = mouch(e)ron, tab(ŭ)la = table.

In its transition from the Latin to the French the predominance of the tonic accent resulted in the reduction of the number of syllables in the words; thus, sanitatem = santé, manducare = manger.

The quality of a vowel depends not only on the accent, but also on the elements, vowels and consonants surrounding it; they all have an influence upon the accented vowel.

The Latin language has the following vowels:

1 - Pure Vowels: ā, ă, ē, ĕ, ī, ĭ, y, ō, ŏ, ū,ŭ.

2 - Compound vowels: au, ae, oe.

These vowels may be free or in position, short or long:

1 - A vowel is called free when followed by another vowel, or by a single consonant, or by a combination of which the first is a mute and the second an r which is so easy to pronounce that they may be considered single, like: deum, matrem.

2 - A vowel is said to be in position when it is followed by

a group of consonants, the second of which is not r. ex: presbyter, the e in this word is in position because followed by sb; magnum, here the a is in position, followed by two consonants. The vowels in position have a tendency to strengthen rather than to weaken, and are treated differently from the free vowels.

Development of the Latin vowel a.

	Tonic								Tonic				Atonic								Atonic		
	Free	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	In Position	"	"	"	Free initial	Free antepenult	In Position	"	"	"	"		Free ultima	"	
													Protonic								Posttonic		
Latin	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a+u	a+u	a	a	a	a+u	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a
French	a	è	ie	ai	ie	ã	ie	ou	oi	ã	ã	au	au	a	a	a	e, a	a	ã	ai, ei	e	e	e
Roum.	ă	ă	ă	a	ă	ă	ă	ă	a	ă	ă	ă	a	ă	a	a	ă	ă	ă	ă	a	ă	ă
Ital.	a	ā	ā	a	ā	ā	ia	ia	e	ā	ā	ā	ā	ă	a	a	a	a	a	ia	u o, e	o	ia
Span.	a	ā	à	a	ā	a	a	a	ou	a	ā	e	ā	a	o, e	a	a	a	a	a e, a	a	a	a
Port.	a	ā	ā	ai ei o	ā	a	a	a	ou	ā	ā	e	ā	o, e	o, e	a	a	a	a	ai, e, a	a	a	a
Prov.	ā	ā	ā	ā	ā	a	a	a	ai	ā	ā	ā	ā	a	a	a	a	a	a	e	a	a	a

Evolution of Vowels in the Romance Languages.

I. Tonic or Accented Vowels.

Free A short or long remains in all Romance Languages:

1 - In proparoxytons in which the tonic syllable was closed after the fall of the penult of the Vulgar Latin a remains:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
rap(i)du	rapide	rapedu	rapido ratto	rapido	rapido	rabeg
as(i) nu	asne	magaru	asino	asno	asno	asno
asp(e)rum	aspre	asperu	aspro	aspero	aspero	aspro

2 - Latin a has a nasal sound in French before m, n and after a palatal:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
manica	mancho	manica	mango	mango	mango	manga
camera	chamber	camera	ciambra	camara	camara	cambra

3 - Latin a before oral consonants changes to e in oxytons, paroxytons, and in paroxytons which remains open after the fall of the penult in Rom. ~~tonic~~ time:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
nasu	nez	nasu	naso	naso	naso	naz
faba	feve	----	fava	haba	fava	faba
mare	mer	maru	mare	mar	mar	mer-s

4 - Latin a changes to ie after a palatal or consonants that have been palatalized. This ie is nasalized before m, n:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
capu	chief	capu	capo	cabo cabeza	cabeza	cap
negar	nier	----	negare	negar	negar	negar
canis	chien	cune	cane	can perro	can	can-s
plaga	plaie	plaga	piaga	llaga	praga	plaga

5 - Free a changes to ai before m, n in proparoxytons:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
granum	grain	grau	grano	grano	grão	grans
fama	faim	faimŭ	fama	hambre	fome	fama
manum	main	manu	mano	mano	mano	mans

6 - Latin a + u change to ou in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
fagu	fou	——	faggio	haya	faia fagea	faus
clavu	clou	ciavu	chiavo	clavo	cravo	claus
habuit	out=eut	ăvutĕ	abbia	hubo	hube	out - ot

7 - Latin a + ui change to oi in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
abui	oi, eu	avut	ebbi	hube	houve	aie
placui	ploi plu	placut	piacqui	plugo	prouve	plac
sapui	soi su	stiut	seppi	supe	sube	saupi

8 - In an initial syllable before oral consonants:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
habere	avoir	avĕ(re)	avere	haber	haver	aver
sapere	savoir	stire	sapere	saber	saber	saber
valere	valoir	——	valere	valer	valer	valha= valer

9 - Latin a after palatals changes to e in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
caballu	cheval	calu	cavallo	caballo	cavalho	cavalz
caminu	chemin	via	cammino	camino	caminho	camino
capellos	cheveux	---	capellos	cabellos	cabellos	cabelh's

10 - Latin a in position before l changes to au in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
salvu	sauf	----	salvo	safo	safo	salv-s
caldu	chaud	caldu	caldo	caldo	caldo	caut

11- Latin a in position remains in all Romanic Languages, with a few exceptions, before oral consonants and simple nasals followed by a vowel:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
lassare	lasser	las	lasciare	cansar	cansar	lassar
salvare	salver sauver	salvarŭ	salvare	salvar	salvar	salvar
carbonem	charbon	carbune	carbone	carbon	carbao	carbo-s
clamare	clamer	-----	clamare	clamar	clamar	clamar

12 - Before m, n Latin a in position changes to nasal even when the syallable was closed in Roman time:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
cantionem	chanson	canti	canzone	cantar	cancao	canso-s
sanitatem	sante	sanatate	sanita	salud	sanidade	sanetatz
campum	champ	campu	campo	campo	campo	camp

13 - Free a at the end of a Latin word is dropped in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
ala	ale-aile	ala	ala	ala	ala	ala
terra	terre	tara	terra	terra	terra	terra
porta	porte	porta uza	porta	porta	porta	porta

We have seen the changes the vowel A has been subjected to in French; in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Provincial; with a few exceptions, it has not changed. ~~to ai or e~~. For example in Italian the a in the Latin malus changes to melo=apple. There the Latin α ~~e~~ in suffix abilis, later ebilis or ibilis has in some cases changed in Italian to evole ex: durevole = durable. Another peculiarity of the Italian is that the a is sometimes put before the stem, ornatus = adorno. But atonic a drops in initials: alauda - lodola. The protonic a in Italian changes sometimes to e, ex- janMarius - gennaro or to o in satisfacere - soddisfacere and again to u, as lacerta = lucerta = lizzard. In final syllables in a is mostly un-

changed in Italian like: casa.

In Spanish the Latin a mostly remains, but is often put before the stem for the sake of euphony, especially when it begins with y: like jentare = ayantar, heri = ayer, jejunium = ayuno, bilanx = balanza, larix alerce. Before many nouns of arabic origin, where the article "al" has become united with its noun and now is used as in Spanish as one word, like: ruga= arruga, citrus = acitron, vespa = avespa. Again we notice in the verbs of this language the prefix ad which has not the same meaning as the particle ad in other languages, like: manazar, arrepentirse: In Portuguese Latin a changes sometimes to o like fames = fome; but most vowels in this language are found only in diphthongs. In Provençal there are few changes menjar and manjar are used for Latin manducare, a = ai in agua or aiga and not agua as in Spanish. In Roumanian, like in French, the a undergoes many changes, but is less clear than the latter. It has always an uncertain sound and in the final syllable Latin a remains in the form of e like aqua = ape, laudat = laude.

Development of the Latin Vowel e.

	Tonic													Atonic						
	Free	"	"	"	"	"	"	"		In Position	"	"	"	Free ultima	"	"				
														Post tonic				Protonic		
Latin	e	e	e	ĕ	ĕ	e	e	e+u	e+u	ĕ	e	e	e	e+i	e+i	e+i		e	e	e+i
French	oi	è	ei	ī	ẽ ã	ie	e ie ie	u	eu	ĕ	ẽ	i	e	ier	iĩ	oi	ie	i	e	ie
Roum	ē	ĕ	i	e	e	ie	i	e	eu	ă	e	ă	e	e	e	e		e	e	e
Ital.	ē	e	ie	e	ie	e	ie	e	io	è	e	e	ie	ie	ĕ	u,e		e	i,e	u,e
Span.	e	é eu	e	a	ie	ie	ie	e	io	a	e	e	ie	ie	ei	e		e	e	e
Port.	e ei	e	e	a	e	e	ĕ	e	io	a	e	i,e	e	ie	ei	e		i	e	e
Prov.	ei	eu	e	ua	e	ĕ	e	u	eu	e	e	e	e	e,i	ei	e		e	e	e

Evolutions of Latin e Tonic.

A Free e.

1 - Latin e free or in position becomes i before oral consonants:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
mercedem	merci	----	mercede	merced	merce	merce-s
cera	cire	cera	cera	cera	cera	ceras
tacere	taisir	tace	tacere	callar	caler	tazer

2 - Latin e after a palatal and before a nasal is i in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
racemu	raisin	uva	racemo	racemo	racemo	razim-s
pollicemu	polcin	polnar	pollice	pulgar	pollegar	polgar

3 - Free Latin e before m, n in paroxytons is nasal in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
plenum	plein	plin	pieno	lleno	cheio	ple-s
senum	sein	semu	seno	seno	seno	sentz
pena	peine	----	pena	pena	pena	pen-s

4 - Free Latin e before oral consonants changes to ie in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
mel	miel	miere	mele	miel	miel	mel-s
tepidum	tiede	tepidu	tiepido -tepido	templado tiblo	tivio	tepitz
petra	pierre	piatra	pietro	piedra	pedra	petra-s

5 - Free Latin e before a nasal is ie nasalized in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
rem	rien	nimic	niente	nada	rem	ren
bene	bien	bine	bene	bien	bem	ben
venit	vient	vine	viene	viene	viene	venga

6 - Free Latin e at the end of a word and before oral consonants changes to oi in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
me	moi	me	me	me	me	me
legem	loi	lege	legge	ley	lei	leis
regem	roi	rege	re	rey	rei	reis

7 - Free Latin e + u = u in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
debuit	dut	——	devo	devi	devi	deg
bebuit	but	beni	bevvi	bebi	bebi	beg
recepuit	recut	recevutu	recebbi	recebi	recebi	rezèi

B - e in Position.

1 - Latin e in position remains unchanged before oral consonants in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
septem	set	sĕpte	sette	siete	sete	set
ferrum	fer	feru	ferro	hierro	ferro	fers

2 - Latin e in position remains before or after palatal in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
herba	herbe	iarba	erba	yerva	herva	herba
ceppum	cep	——	ceppo	savia	savia	cepo
cresta	crête	creastă	cresta	cresta	crista	cresta

3 - Latin e in position after a palatal and before m. n is nasal in French:

Latin,	French,	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
centum	cent	suntu	cento	cien	cemento	cent
cengula	cengle	cingă	cingolo	cilha	cingulo	singla
templum	temple	tîmplu	tempio	templo	templo	temples

4 - Latin e + u results in ieu triphthong eu in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
Deus	Dieu	deu	dia	dios	deus	deus
legua	lieue	——	lega	liga	legua	lega
celum	cieu	celu	cielo	cielo	cielo	cels

Atonic Vowels.

A Protonic e . -

Latin e free is unchanged in French before oral consonants and simple nasals:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
fermare	fermer	----	fermare chiudere	cerrar	cerrar	fermar
vertute	vertu	vertu	virtu	virtud	virtude	vertutz

B Posttonic e .

Unaccented final e in Latin disappears in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
navem	nef	----	nave	nave	nao	naus
mortale	mortel	----	mortale	mortal	mortal	mortal
pare	pair	paru	paio	par	par	pair
bene	bien	bine	bene	bien	bem	ben

In Italian long e is mostly the same as in Latin like, debeo-devo, mecum-meco, but there are a few exceptions like plenus, pieno, feria-fiera. The short Latin e changes mostly to ie in Italian, like decem-dieci, heri-ieri. In open syllable the Latin e changes to i in Italian, like ego- io, meus - mio. In Spanish: the long e of the Latin is mostly unchanged: mensa - mesa , plenus - lleno, arboretum - arboleta; but tensus gives tesos beside tieso. Short Latin e changes into ie in Spanish, like bene - bien, decem - diez. The same change takes place when e is in position: septem - siete. In Portuguese e followed by another vowel changes to ei: frenum- freo, freio. In Prov: long e changes mostly to ei: credo - crei, pejus - peitz, while short e changes to ie: Deus - dieu, ego - ieu, heri - hier. In Roum. long e mostly remains: acetum - otzet or changes to ea: sera - seară,

Development of the Latin Vowels i, u, au.

	Tonic			Atonic			Tonic			Atonic			Tonic			Atonic		
	Free or in position bef. Cons.	Free or in position bef. Nasals	—	Protonic bef. Cons. or Nasals	In Position bef. Nasals	—	Free or in position bef. Cons.	Free or in Position bef. Nasals	—	Protonic free or in position bef. Cons.	Protonic free or in position bef. Nasals	—	Free or in position bef. Cons	—	—	Protonic free or in position	—	—
	i						u						au					
Latin	i	i	i+i	i	i	i+i	u	u	u+i	u	u	u+i	au	au+i	au+u	au	au+i	
French	i	ĩ	i	i	ĩ	i	ü	ũ	ui	ü	ũ	ui	o	oi	eu, ou	o	oi	
Roumain	i	i	i, ĕ	i	i	i ĕ	u	u	u	u	u	u	au	io	u	au	–	
Italian	i	i	i, e	i	i	e, i	u, o	u, o	iu	u	u	u	iu, au	o	o, u	au	–	
Spanish	i	i	i, e	i	i	i, e	u	u, o	u	u	u	u	o	o	e, a	au	–	
Portug.	i	i	i, e	i	i	i, e	u	u, o	u	u	u	u	o	o	e, a	au	–	
Prov.	i	i	i, e	i	i	i	u	u, o	u	u	u	u	au	au	au	au	oi	

Evolutions of Latin I.

I in Vgl = I in Cl. Latin.

A Free, Tonic I.

—

1 - Latin i free or in position before oral consonants remains unchanged in most Roman languages:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
amicum	ami	----	amico	amigo	amigo	amigo
tibia	tige	teava	tibia	tibia	tibia	tige
nidum	nid	----	nido	nido	ninho	nius

B, I in Position.

—

1 - Tonic or atonic i remains unchanged in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
historia	histoire	historia	storia	historia	historia	historia
villa	ville	----	villa	villa	villa	villa

2 - Latin i free or in position before m, n is weakened into an e and has a nasal sound in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital	Span.	Port.	Prov.
vinum	vin	vinu	vino	vino	vinho	vin-s
pinum	pin	----	pino	pino	pinho	pin-s

II. Atonic Vowels.

A. Protonic i.

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1 - Latin i free, protonic, when in first syllable, does not change before oral consonants in most Roman languages:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
filare	filer	firuese	filare	hilar	fiar	filar
finire	finir	----	finare	finarse	finar	finar
limar	limer	----	limare	limar	limar	limar

2 - Latin i ~~free~~, protonic, when initial is sometimes weakened into e mute in French.

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
divinat	diviner	----	divenire	devenir	devir	devenir
dimituum	demi	jumatate	dimezzare	dimidiar	dto	partager
circulum	circle	----	serchio	circulo	dto	cercle - s

3 - Latin i free protonic when not in first syllable is dropped in all Romanic Languages:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
bonitatem	bonte	bunatate	bonta	bondad	bondade	bontatz

B, Posttonic i.

1 - Latin i as a posttonic vowel in paroxytons and proparoxytons is dropped in French, but when in hiatus and is separated from the tonic by a labial, it forms a diphthong ue with the tonic vowel:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
muri	mur	——	muro	muro	muro	muro
cantavi	chantai	cantatu	cantato	cante	canti	canta
adiutare	aider	agiude	aiutare	ayudar	ayutar	aiudar

2 - In the penult of the Latin long i is always accented; the atonic short i in hiatus forms with the consonant y a syllable:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
factionem	facon	——	foggia	forma	forma	faiso
comenitiare	commencer	——	cominciare	comenzar	comenzar	comensar
pertusiare	percer	——	penetrare	penetrar	penetrar	pertusar

In Italian Latin i long is usually unchanged; for instance, fibula - fibbia, fidus - fido, insula - isola. Latin e when short changes to e in Italian: bibere - bevere, fides - fede. Latin i in position mostly gives e in Italian: silva - selva, piscis - pesce; but remains i before ll, n, s in Italian, like mille, villa, cinque, arista, finto. In Spanish the Latin long i remains like in dico - digo, filium - hilo, ripa - riba, flix - feliz. Latin short i, however, changes to e in Spanish like cibus - cebo, timeo - temo, vicem - vece. Latin i in position also changes to e like: littere-letra, lingua - lengua. As to Portuguese it is about the same as the Spanish in this vowel. Latin long i remains the same in Provencal, like: finis - fi, miror,mir, sic - si. Short i changes to e, like fimus - fem, minus - mens, sine - senes. Latin long i is shortened in Roumanian like: frigus - frig, dico - zic. Short i is changed to e like baptizo - botez, ripa - repo; the same change takes place when Latin i is in position; piscis - peste, siccus - sec, virga - varge.

When atonic Latin i before the tonic syllable changes to e like: linteolum - lenzuolo, or to e in divitiae - dovizia or to u like sigillum - suggello. In Spanish i changes mostly to e like: cingere - cenir, colligere - colegir. In Portuguese atonic i disappears often when protonic as: inamorare - namorar:

Development of the Latin Vowel O.

	Tonic																Atonic							
	Oxyton or paroxyton	Paroxy.	Paroxy. Before Nasals	Paroxy.	—	—	—	Oxyton or Proxyt.	Proparoxyt.	Before Nasal	—	—	Bef. Oral Consn.	before Nasals	before oral Cons.	before nasal	Free Bef. Nasal	"	"	"	In Position Before Cons	Before Li, ji	—	before Nasal
	Free												In Position				Protonic							
Lat.	o	o	o	o	o+i	o+u	o+u,	o	o	o	o+i	o+u	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o+i	o	o	o+i	o
French	uo ue en ou	en	uõ ue ẽ õ	uoi ui ẽ	en	ui	en	ou u	ẽ	oi ẽ	ou		o	õ	u	õ	ou	ou	ẽ	oi oi	o	ou	oi	ẽ
Roum	o	o	u	o	o	o	-	oa	o	o	u	u	u	o	ou	u	u	o	a	o	o	o	o	o
Ital.	o	o	u	o	o	uo	-	io	o	o	o	u	o	o	o	o	o	o	a	o	o	o	o	o
Span	ue	o	ue	o	oi	ue o	-	o	e	o	u	o	ue	o	o	o	o	u	a	o	o	o	o	o
Port	o	o	o oa	o	o	o	-	o	e	o	u	o	ue	o	o	o	o	o	a	o	o	o	o	o
Prov.	o	o	o	o	uei	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	oi	o	o	o	o

Vgl: O = Cl Latin o - u

Tonic O.

A free O.

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1 - Latin free o in open or closed syllable changed to uo, ue, oe, in former periods but is now eu in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
color	couleur	color	colore	color	color	color
flor	fleur	floare	fiore	flor	flor	flors
dolor	douleur	durere	dolore	dolor	dor	dolors

2 - Latin o before m, n becomes nasal in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
homo	homme	oamu	uomo	hombre	homem	hom
sonum	son	sona	suono	sueno	som	so s
bonum	bon	bun	buono	bueno	bom=boa	bo-s

3 - Latin o before a guttural + u gives uou, ou, eu in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
focum	feu	focu	fuoco	fuego	fogo	foc-s
jocum	jeu	jocu	giuoco	juego	jogo	joc-s
locum	lieu	locu	luogo	lugar	lugar	loc-s

4 - Latin o free or in position before oral consonants changes to ou in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
coda	coud	coada	coda	cola	cauda	coda
duodecem	douze	doispredece	dodeci	doce	doze	dotze
lupam	louve	lupŭ	lupo	lobo	lobo	lop-s

5 - Before a y = i when the consonant is a dental. Latin o becomes ui in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
nocui	nuit	----	nocqui	dañar	damnar	notz.
hodie	hui	----	oggi	hoy	hoje	huei

6 - Latin o before a guttural + e or i gives oi in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
crocem	croix	cruce	croce	cruz	cruz	crotz
vocem	voix	boce	voce	voz	voz	votz

B - O in Position.

1 - Latin o in position, either tonic or atonic, remains unchanged in most Romanic Languages:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
portam	poete	puarta	porta	puerta	porta	porta
cornu	corne	cornu	corno	cuerno	corno	corn
mortu	mort	morte	morto	muerto	morto	mortz

2 - Latin o in position before an s gives o in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
tostu	tot	----	tosto	pronto	pronto	totz
hospitalem	hotel	----	ospite	fonda	fonda	hosped
costa	cote	costa	costa	costa	costa	costa

3 - Latin o in position before m, n becomes nasal in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
ombra	ombre	umbra	ombra	sombra	sombra	ombra
ongula	ongle	ungua	unghia	una	unha	ongla
somnare	sommeille	somnese	sogna	sonar	sonhar	sonhar

4 - Latin o in position or free when followed by l changes to a diphthong oui in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
despoliare	depouiller	despoiu	dispogliare	despogar	despojar	despolhar
molliare	mouiller	----	mollare	mojar	molhar	molhar

5 - Latin o in position before a guttural changes to oi. and finally becomes ui in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
noctem	nuit	nopte	notte	noche	noite	nuech
octo	huit	optŭ	otto	ocho	oito	oit

6 - Latin o in a closed syllable changes to ou in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
formica	fourmi	furnica	formica	hormiga	formiga	formiga
nutrire	nourrire	nodrire	nutrir	nutrit	noirir	noirir
borsa	bourse	boarsa	borsa	bolsa	bolsa	bossa

7 - Latin o in position combined with i to form a diphthong oi which has a nasal sound in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
pognu	poing	pumĭ	pugno	puno	punho	ponh-s
jungere	joindre	unire	congiungere	juntar	juntar	juntar
punctu	point	puntŭ	punto	punto	punto	puntz

In Italian the long o remains as in Latin, like: sol - sole, hora - ora, cotem - cote. Long Latin o changes to u in Italian, like: totus - tutto. Short Latin o changes to uo, oa, like in boves.- buoi, bonus - buono, focus - fuoco, scola - scuola. When atonic o changes to u, botellus - budello, focus - fucile, molina- mulino. In Spanish long o remains,like:flor, color,but short o

changes often to ue, bonus - bueno, nudo - nudo, october - octubre. This is the case especially before l, m, n, r, s, - sueno, vuelvo. In Portuguese long o remains, but short o becomes u, like: totus-tudo, foro - furo. In Provençal long o remains, but short o changes to ue, uo: bonus,- buen, soror,- suer. In Roumanian o= oă = homo - oămeni, posta - poaste, scola- scoale.

Synopsis of the Changes in Vowels of the Romanic Languages.

Latin	A			E			I			O			U			Y			Ae			Oe			Au		
	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position	Long	Short	In Position
French	é ie oi e a	ie	e	e oi	ie	e, ie	i	e, oi	e	eu o	eu o	o	u	ou o	ou o	i	i	i	ie	e	–	e	e	e	au	o	–
Roumanian	a	ă	u	e ea	ie ea	e ea	i	e	e, i	o oa u	oa o u	u o, oa	u	u	u	i	i	i	e	e	e	e	e	e	au	oa	
Italian	a	a	a	e	ie	e	i	e	e	o	uo	o	u	o	o	–	–	–	ie	e	–	e	e	e	o	o	o
Spanish	a	a	a	e	ie	e, ie	i	e	e, i	o	ue	o, ue	u	u	o u	~~y~~	~~ie~~		e	ie	–	e	e	e	o	o	o
Portug	ei (ai) a (o, e)	a	a	e (i)	i (ie)	e	i (e)	e (i)	e, i	o (u)	o (o)	o (u)	u (o)	u	o (u)	y	(e)	(e) (u)	e	–	–	e	–	–	au	o	ou (a)
Prov.	a	a	a	e	e, ie	e	i	e	e, i	o	o	o	u	o	o	–	–	–	e	e	e	ai	e	e	au	–	–

U. Tonic.

A. free U.

Free tonic u remains in all Romanic languages:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
murum	mûr	----	muro	muro	muro	mur-s
purum	pur	----	puro	puro	puro	purs
nullum	nul	nimic	niuno	nada	nada	nulh

B. Latin u in position.

1 - Latin u in position, whether tonic or atonic, becomes u in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
mulum	mule	mula	mula	mulo	mulo	mul-s
lustrum	lustre	----	lustro	lustre	lustre	----
securum	sûr	seguru	sicuro	seguro	seguro	segur

2 - Latin u in position, tonic or atonic, before a guttural changes to ui in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
fructum	fruit	fructu	fruta	fruto	fruto	frug

3 - Latin u before m, n takes the nasal sound of o in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
fundus	fonds	----	fondo	fondo	fondo	fon

4 - Latin u + i gives ui which before m or n has a nasal sound in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
fructu	fruit	fructu	fruta	fruto	fruto	frug
lucet	luit	lucit	lucere	lucir	luz	luz
juniu	juin	junie	giunio	junio	junho	junh-s

U. Atonic.

A. Protonic u.

—

1 - Latin u when initial changes to u in French, but remains unchanged in all other Romanic Languages:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
mutare	muer	——	mutare	mudar	mudar	mudar

2 - Latin u when protonic and not initial drops in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
manducare	manger	munca	mangiare	comer	comer	——

There is no posttonic u in Latin.

Latin long u mostly remains unchanged in Italian, like: acutus-acuto, flumen - fiume, fui - fui. Short u becomes o in Italian, like: crucem - croce, nucem - noce, gola - gula, lupa - lova, pluvius - pioggia. Latin long u remains mostly unchanged in Spanish, like: acutus - agudo, fumus - fumo, Short u changes to o in Spanish, like: lupus - lobo, juvenis - joven. The same change takes place when u is in Latin position: profundus - hondo. In Portuguese the same conditions obtain. In Provencal long u mostly unchanged, like: acutus - agut, crudelis - cruzel, lucem - lus. Short u changes to o in Provencal, like: crucem - crotz, super - sobre. In Roumanian long u of the Latin remains, like in fumus - fum, prunun - prun. Short u remains also crucem - cruce, fugire - fug; u in position

does not change, like: ausculto,ascult,multum - mult, vulpem - vulpe.

Au. Vgl = Cl. Latin.

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1 - Free unaccented initial au changes to o in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
pausare	poser	pausa	posare	posar	posar	pauzat

2 - Latin au changes to ou before a consonant which disappears in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
laudare	louer	lauda	lodare	alabar	alabar	lauzar

3 - Free accented au becomes o in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
taula	tole	tabla	tavola	pizarra	taula	taula
causam	chose	———	cosa	cosa	cosa	chauza
pausa	pause	poasa	pausa	pausa	pausa	pauza

4 - Latin au before a consonant followed by i combines with the latter to a diphthong oi after the dropping of the consonant.

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
gaudia	joie	gioya	gioia	gozo	alegria	gautz
audio	oi	auz	udio	oigo	oigo	auzo

5 - Latin au → u gives ou and eu in French:

Latin	French	Roum.	Ital.	Span.	Port.	Prov.
raucu	rou	——	rauco	rouco	rouco	rauc
paucu	peu	pucin	poco	poco	poco	p uc

Atonic au changes usually to a in Italian, like: augustus - agosto; sometimes to o, like in auripigmentum- oripimento, and often to u, like aucella - uccelle, audire - udire.

Hiatus.

The hiatus occurs when a consonant, standing in the middle of a word between two vowels, is dropped out. Like scutella - escuele. In general the French language does not favor this accumulation of vowels so close together. The avoidance of this hiatus has been tried ever since the times of the vulgar Latin, in the middle ages and up to the present time. Through the change of pronunciation new vowels were brought in use which had to be done away with. The hiatus is mostly formed by the coming together of two, sometimes of three vowels, and then either a diphthong or a triphthong is formed.

In Latin the vowels that most frequently form the first vowel of the hiatus are i and u. The Latin hiatus has been reduced in various ways.

1 - Either the i has been combined with the preceding consonant and softened the following one, like: linea - ligne, allium-ail. If the following consonant was a c it took the sound of s: facia - face. If it is a t preceded by a vowel we obtain an s preceded by i: rationem - raison. If t is preceded by a consonant then we obtain only s, like angustia - angoisse. If it is a d preceded by a vowel we have i: badium - bai, radiare - rayer. Initial d preceded by a consonant gives j or g: deusque - jusque, hordea - orge. After labials the i is consonified whether the labial is preceded by a consonantor not: sapiam - sache, tibia - tige, cavea - cage.

2 - The i combines with the vowel of the preceding syllable

and thus forms a diphthong, like: area - aire, capreum - cuivre, corium - cuir.

3 - The i falls off in parietem, paretem - paroi, quietem - coi.

4 - The u disappears in battuere - battre, consuere - coudre.

The reduction of diphthongs to simple vowels.

A becomes ai before a nasal or by being followed by a palatal.

E becomes i ei and remains before ll and changes to oi in most other cases.

o, uo, ue, oe, eu, o become eu, ou, while o, o, u under influence of guttural become oi, ui, u combined with a guttural become ui.

So we have the diphthongs ai, au, ei, eu, ie, iu, oi, ui.

Diphthong ai = e, au = o, ei = e, eu (eou) ou = eu, ou or u

" iu = icu or ui sometimes u

" oi, oi = oe, we

" ui = wi or even u

" ie = ye = fevrier, hier.